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California GARDEN

10c

NOTICE

The Flower Show dates have been changed to

August 9 and 10

FALL
GARDEN SHOW
WILL BE
HELD IN
BALBOA PARK

SAT.-SUN.
AUGUST 16, 17

MAIN PLAZA

AUGUST
1941

Mother of Gardens
Lester Rowntree

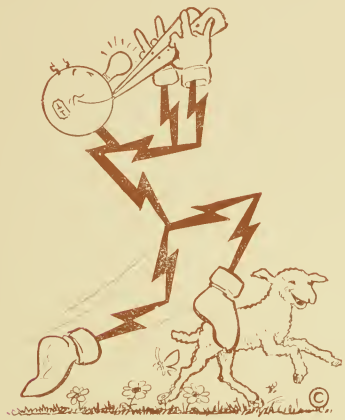
Meditation
Katherine V. Lewis

The Goldfinches
Frank F. Gander

Gleanings
Alice M. Clark

Problems of the Soil
Rob't R. McLean

Enjoy Your Garden More



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Member
American Rose Society
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PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

Roland S. Hoyt, Editor

John D. Wimmer, Assoc. Editor

AUGUST, 1941

Vol. 33 **No. 2**

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month.

Subscription to Magazine, $1.00 per year; Membership $1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, $2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Floral Building, Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

California's Mother of Gardens

By LESTER ROWNTREE

When Kate O. Sessions Took to Gardening for a Life Work She Created a New Concept of Beauty

In quizzing garden people about their hobby, one of the questions I always ask is, "What started you to doing all this anyway?" When, years ago, I put this question to Kate O. Sessions, she said, "I was always started. I grew up in a garden."

At two years of age she already was a confirmed flower plucker. At six, she seized a hoe and went forth to "weed" her grandfather's vegetable garden, eliminating every cabbage plant.

In 1857 her father left their San Francisco home, the Nob Hill house in which Kate was born, for a 100-acre farm in Oakland, a little north of Lake Merrit. Here the vivid, incessantly active little girl could ride her pony all day long over the Piedmont hills, hunting for wild flowers, beetles and butterflies.

There can hardly be an ardent "plants" person in California who did not know Kate. But it was not her plant knowledge alone that drew people to her, for she was in herself a spicy and stimulating person. My K.O.S. file is stuffed as much with choice tidbits of her conversation as with her reports on plant behavior in Southern California.

To try to describe her in print is almost impossible, even as photographs do not catch her compelling personality. She disliked dressing up, always preferring to wear practical working clothes.

K. O., as we called her, went to San Diego first as a teacher (she was a natural-born one) and began there to develop and spread her campaign for the beautification of that city and the growing of better and lovelier trees and flowers for all of Southern California.

She carried on that campaign with living, ever-quickening intelligence and enthusiasm until her death in the spring of last year. She knew plants so well and had so keen an eye for the unusual, the new, the unrecognized and the worth while among them that each year found her more closely identified with the horticultural work of all California, while her nursery and gardens became gradually but surely a mecca for that small but indomitable brotherhood of folk who by their love of "earth's green mantle" are bound together the world around.

Always they found her full of the praises of some new discovery or bursting with her latest plan to beautify the city which she had adopted as her own. In February of last year, on my way east, when I came into the hospital room where she lay with her broken hip in a cast, she greeted me characteristically with "Lester, this is hell, pure hell!" But in no time she was pouring out a description of the palm-bordered entrance she was planning for the Coast Highway approach to her city.

When I came back a year later she was gone. But wherever I looked, around the city, there was something to remind me of San Diego's "tree woman."

She crammed a lot into those years which lay between her slaughter of the cabbage plants and the zenith of her plant interests and activities. When she graduated from the Oakland High School, one of her presents was a trip to Hawaii and this, though long in advance of her horticultural crusade, had something to do with fixing her career. Her enrollment at Berkeley was in the scientific course, where she was set to collecting rocks and minerals, and when she wrote her graduating essay in 1881 its weighty title was "The Natural Sciences as a Field for Woman's Labor."

Photographs of those days show a tall, beautiful girl with intelligent dark eyes and a sweet mouth. Short curls lie on her forehead, long ones are drawn over her shoulders, she wears earrings, a lacy ruffle round her neck and dainty little shoes. In other pictures the curls have been "garnered up," as contemporary poets expressed it, and the mouth has grown firmer, but the earrings and lace ruffles remain. The energy which we late saw poured wholesale into one channel was diversified then and Kate's life was the gay and natural one of any pretty co-ed. "Real sick," runs her diary, "but went to a dance last night anyway."

Always she was a determined K.

O. who knew her own mind and liked her own way. One of the early pictures is of a small girl sitting with one foot tucked under her, not at all a nice attitude in those conventional days.

"Katie, dear, do put your foot down and sit like a lady," her mother entreated, without the slightest result. Just one little surface indication of those traits which were to give us the forthright, uncompromising, eagerly interested and deliciously frank K. O. we all loved. She was a bit shorter when we knew her, with keener and more piercing eyes that observed things many of us never saw and wrested knowledge from all growing things, both people and plants, but beautiful eyes still and full of humor and kindliness. No more dainty little slippers on her feet. Like the famous footwear of her famous horticultural kinswoman, Miss Gertrude Jekyll of Munstead Wood in England, high shoes were now the necessity, and good solid masculine high shoes at that. Both these plants women believed in dressing to fit their jobs.

K. O. was a small person to become the mother of Balboa Park. In her teaching years she began to notice how readily tropical plants took to the climate of the Southland and poking about in gardens and nurseries had become a pleasant habit.

The pull to be growing things became too strong and she launched a nursery and flower shop of her own, struggling along with it for five years. Then in 1892 she took the first of those steps from which San Diego was to benefit so much, by persuading the city authorities to let her have the use of 30 acres of city-owned land, land which was later to become a part of Balboa Park. The agreement required her to plant 100 trees on this borrowed ground every year and to give the city an additional 300 for its streets and school yards. This is only one of a number of tracts, lying between Balboa Park and Pacific Beach, where K. O. lived and worked and planted and which she left green and growing and far more beautiful, as well as more valuable, than when she took them over.

On the inland slope of Pacific Beach, two miles from her last established nursery, she built her home and made her last garden. This was the peak of her activity. She went about talking up her pet enthusiasm of the hour, inciting nurserymen to grow it and gardeners to plant it. She scurried up and down the Coast, to Los Angeles and San Francisco, looking for plants which showed possibilities and deserved a break. She grew them by hundreds in her nursery for the trade and gave them away generously to seasoned gardeners who would try them out.

For years to come you will see such gardeners touch a plant in passing and hear them say, "Kate Sessions gave me that." But her critical soul would tolerate nothing which proved unworthy and her condemning phrases were brief and cutting, "No good for anything! A damned nuisance!"

K. O. should have done more writing. I was not the only one who kept urging her to produce a book. She wrote hurried articles about her plants to the current local press and for California Garden, a magazine of San Diego Floral Association, in which she was prime mover. And every time I went to see her we would go over her notes, sitting out on her glassed porch that overlooks San Diego Bay and Point Loma and the coastal mountains of Baja California. The afternoon sun which was flooding the porch when we began would wane to sunset colors and change to darkness sparkling with the lights of San Diego and the little towns around it before our sorting was done and the papers all tidy. "Now begin! Now!" I would urge her. "Yes," she would promise me, "I will. I'll begin that book right away." But each time I came back the piles of notes were confused again and the book still in the future.

She had seven stimulating months in Europe in 1925 and five weeks in the Hawaiian Islands in 1926. After these journeys she worked even harder and her correspondence with other horticulturists, always large, grew still heavier and went on until the time of her accident.

It was K. O. who planted Cocos plumosa, the queen palm, in the square around the San Diego Plaza. She was the first grower in California to send out the Poinsettia pulcherrima and the Crimson Lake bougainvillea. Many of her trips to San Francisco were made in the lifetime of Charlie A b r a m s, beloved by all plant people and Central California's leader in plant introductions, and she never failed to bring bock fom his nursery some newcomer which she thought would prosper in her Southland. One of these was Solanum wendlandi, the blue-flowered vine from Costa Rica which grows so well now in seaside gardens.

A visit to K. O.'s garden was a cocktail many of us gardeners need-

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MEDITATION

These reveries I love to keep:
The hush at eve as shadows creep,
The light that gleams on garden wall,
The rustling, slipping leaves in fall,
Soft moonlight through the limbs of fir,
The morning notes of birds astir;
A little house with outdoors big,
Rich mellow earth and time to dig,
And borders gay with colors bright,
With restful shade and golden light,
A friendly tree and many a guest,
A garden seat on which to rest.
Then, too, I love a winding path
And sunset's glorious aftermath,
The hues of flowers like sun's last rays,
The rose, the purple, pinks and grays;
And friends to share these joys with me,
Companionship and company.
These picture thoughts are dear to me,
I'll cherish them in memory.

Katherine V. Lewis.
La Jolla.

A garden . . . "divinely bent to meditation."—Richard III.

ed and enjoyed. I usually found her there and would immediately be hugged and taken in a great hurry to see the latest plant pet. One group of things after another had the top rank in her esteem, their order as I remember it (my notes are not at hand) being something like this: First came the prostrate junipers (which are still lovely on her hillside garden), then all manner of rainbow-hued mesembryanthemums, then a flock of fine eucalypti, Australian kinds which never before had been seen in California, and lastly some wonderful and rare heathers from South Africa. Some of the heathers died when times grew hard for K. O. and she couldn't give her garden the maintenance it needed, but many of the mesembryanthemums have now run wild on the outskirts of the place and the eucalypti have grown tall and handsome.

I remember one exciting day when she showed me Aeonium tabulaeforme, the "dinner plate" of the barrancos of the Isle of Tenerife. Her "dinner plate" was in bloom, probably the first plant of its kind to bloom in California. And another high spot came the day we went up into the hills east of San Diego to find Ceanothus cyaneus, the San Diego lilac, blooming wild. Most of the plants whose introductory period K. O. championed are now part of the nurseryman's general stock and other horticulturists have written lavishly about their culture and adaptability.

Some people, regrettably, get few verbal bouquets until they are dead, but we don't need to have such regrets about Kate Sessions. She was the star at innumerable "tree plantings," those happy hours of civic groups and garden clubs. Before the camera, accompanied by the Mayor, the club president, and the gentlemen of the press, K. O. has thrown many a shovelful of earth on the roots of a waiting tree.

She thoroughly enjoyed being feted and rose most satisfactorily to the occasion. At the same time, plants came first with K. O., and K. O. herself second. We won't

(Continued on Page 8)

Bird Parade—The Goldfinches

By Frank Forrest Gander

In late summer we find plants ripening seeds everywhere — sunflowers along every roadside, cosmos and marigolds in our gardens, and a host of others all around us, and that is when the goldfinches hold high carnival. Every patch of gone-to-seed plants, be they weeds or flowers, spreads a banquet table for these little birds. Delightfully, the feasters flit from one to another, husking the seeds with their stout conical beaks, and savoring first one kind of nutritious kernel and then another. No shriveled weed stalk is too mean, and no prized zinnia too haughty to escape their visits. And no garden is so secret but what some of their clan will spy it out, for their numbers are legion.

Most widespread and abundant are the Green-backed Goldfinches, smallest of the three kinds that we have in Southern California, and familiar in our gardens throughout the year. Not only do they have green backs but they have yellowish green breasts as well, with wings and tail darker and marked with white. The male is brighter than the female and in addition wears a neat black cap on his head. A fine singer he is and a willing one. In the spring, his canary-like song sounds daily in my garden, and at all seasons his characteristic call notes and occasional small bits of song may be heard.

Last May, a pair had a dainty cup of a nest in a White Sage near my home. It contained one tiny bug-like baby when I first discovered it. The mother brooded this newly hatched chick while the father came at frequent intervals to visit the nest and probably to feed his offspring. The young are fed on a white pap of partially digested seeds, and this one grew rapidly. In a few days, it nearly filled the nest—then it was on the wing, following its parents everywhere and begging unceasingly for food.

Soon after this I watched a female gathering dog hair in our yard. Trip after trip she made with the long hairs sticking out from both sides of her beak like bristly mustaches. She was very bold in her forays, sometimes hopping quite close to the dog who had all unwittingly provided her with nesting material. The male would perch on a wire overhead and at intervals cheer her with song. I supposed this to be the same pair which had just graduated the brood of one, but if so, the birds could scarcely have picked a nesting site less like the one on the low sage plant, for the female carried the hairs she gathered into the swaying top of a tall eucalyptus. However, most goldfinch nests are placed lower, as in the branches of small trees or in bushes.

The Willow Goldfinch likes to nest in willows and other trees along streams as its name suggests. It is a little larger than its green-backed relative. The females are much alike, but the Willow is a little browner and less greenish. The male Willow is the most golden of the goldfinches, bright yellow on breast and back, while black and white in wings and tail, and a black cap on the head. He it is to whom the name "Wild Canary" is most often applied, but that name may be used for almost any small yellow bird. In the fall, the male of this species changes his bright livery for a brownish suit like that of his mate, and then the birds gather in large flocks in the weed fields. The male Green-back does not follow this custom of donning dull clothes for winter, nor does he change his haunts.

Our third species, the Lawrence's Goldfinch, is less common near the coast than either of the others, and it is less golden in its coloring. Both sexes wear as much soft grey as yellow, and the black cap of the male has been pushed so far forward that his beak protrudes from the middle of it. The tinkling call notes of these birds are to be heard

(Continued on Page 9)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SECTION A—AMATEURS
Dahlias

* 1. Collection 12 Dahlias, 12 varieties, one bloom each (small varieties excluded). Prize competitive cup to be won for three years.
2. Three Blooms Cactus, one or more varieties.
3. Three Blooms Semi-Cactus, one or more varieties.
4. Three Blooms, Formal Decorative, one or more varieties.
5. Three Blooms, Informal Decorative, one or more varieties.
6. Three Blooms Miniature, one or more varieties, not over 3½ inches in diameter.
7. Three Blooms Fancy or Variegated, one or more varieties.
8. Three Blooms, Pompons, one or more varieties.
9. Three Blooms Show or Ball, one or more varieties.
10. Three Blooms, Single, one or more varieties.
11. One Bloom Cactus.
12. One Bloom Semi-Cactus.
13. One Bloom Formal Decorative.
14. One Bloom, Informal Decorative.
15. One Bloom Miniature, not over 3½ inches in diameter.
16. One Bloom Fancy or Variegated.
17. One Bloom Pompon.
18. One Bloom Show or Ball.
19. One Bloom, Single.

* 20. Collection of Cactus and Semi-Cactus, one bloom each variety.
21. Collection Formal and Informal Decorative, one bloom each variety.
22. Collection of Pompons, and/or Collarettes, three blooms each variety.

* 23. General display of Dahlias. (Judge: Quality of blooms 50%; arrangement 25%, and diversity and range of types 25%).

* 24. Most Artistic Basket of Dahlias other foliage permitted.

* 25. Most Artistic Arrangement Vase or Bowl of Dahlias, other foliage permitted.

* 26. **Novice Class**, open to amateurs who have never won a Dahlia award. Entry 5 large Dahlias of any type or types.

* **DAHLIA SWEEPSTAKES**
San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.

SECTION B
Open to All Competitors
Dahlias

27. Display of Miniature Dahlias not over 3½ inches in diameter.
28. Established Three-year-old Seedling, three blooms.
29. Display of Undisseminated Seedlings.
30. 1940 Seedlings.
31. Most Artistic Basket of Pompons, use of other foliage permitted.

* **One Best Bloom Exhibited, stem and foliage considered.**

* **Largest Bloom Exhibited, stem and foliage considered.**

SECTION C—PROFESSIONALS
Dahlias

* 32. General Display arranged for Effect, potted plants and foliage allowed for embellishment.
33. Six Blooms, any variety.
34. Six Blooms, Cactus, one or more varieties.
35. Six Blooms, Semi-Cactus, one or more varieties.
36. Six Blooms, Formal Decorative, one or more varieties.
37. Six Blooms, Informal Decorative, one or more varieties.
38. Collection Pompons, three blooms each variety.

* 39. Best Largest Collection Standard varieties. Names attached.

SECTION D—AMATEURS
Zinnias

* 40. Collection of Zinnias.
41. Three Blooms, Zinnias, Red or Red Shades.
42. Three Blooms Zinnias, White or White Shades.
43. Three Blooms Zinnias, Pink or Pink Shades.
44. Three Blooms Zinnias, Orange or Orange Shades.
45. Three Blooms Zinnias, Yellow or Yellow Shades.
46. Three Blooms Zinnias, Lavender or Lavender Shades.
47. Three Blooms, any color not classified.
48. Three Blooms, picotee type.
49. Twenty-five Blooms Zinnias, small Mexican.
50. Collection Lilliput Zinnias.
51. Display Novelty Type. Example Fantasy and Quilled.
52. Arranged Vase or Bowl of Zinnias. No fillers allowed.
53. Arranged Basket of Zinnias. No fillers allowed.

* **ZINNIA SWEEPSTAKES**
San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.

SECTION E—AMATEURS
Flower Arrangements

54. Arranged vase, Bowl or Dish of Flowers.
55. Arrangement of Flowers in Red, Bronze, Yellow, Autumn Shades.
56. An Arrangement of Flowers in Cyanic Group (Blue—Red through Magenta to Violet Blue).
57. An Arrangement of White Flowers.
58. An Arrangement of Flowers in Metal Container.
59. An arrangement of Foliage, Berries or Pods.
60. An Arrangement of Dry Material.
61. An Arrangement in Eperne.
62. An Arrangement in Violet and Blue.
63. An Arrangement of only one Bloom or Bud.
64. An Arrangement of Geraniums or Pelargoniums.
65. An Arrangement from Flowering Trees or Shrubs.
66. Mass Arrangement as opposed to Line Arrangement.
67. French Bouquet in suitable container.

NON COMPETITIVE—
Open to All.

68. An Arrangement suggesting a. Courage; b. Simplicity; c. Strength; d. Faith.

69. An Arrangement suggesting Seasonable theme:
    a. Autumn; b. Winter.
    SWEEPSTAKES FOR CLASSES 54 to 67 Inclusive. First and Second Prizes. Judging Points:
    Distinction 20%
    Relation of Flowers to Container 20%
    Color Harmony 20%
    Proportion 20%
    Quality 20%
* 70. Formal Dinner Table for Six.
* 71. Luncheon Table for Four.
* 72. Tea Table, any size.
* 73. Still Life.
    First and Second Prizes.

SECTION F—AMATEURS

74. Display of Asters, Double Type.
75. Display of Asters, Single Type.
76. Display of Marigolds.
77. Display of Petunias.
78. Display of Roses.
79. Display of Pelargoniums.
80. Display of Hemerocallis.
81. Display of Any Flower Not Otherwise Classified.

* **SWEEPSTAKES FOR CLASSES 74 to 81 Inclusive**

SECTION G—OPEN TO ALL
Lath House Subjects

* 82. General Exhibit of Begonias grown in pots or boxes.
83. Exhibit of Potted Fibrous tall growing Begonias.
84. Exhibit of Potted Fibrous low growing Begonias.
85. One Specimen Potted Fibrous Begonia.
86. Collection of Potted Tuberous Begonias.
87. One Specimen Potted Tuberous Begonia.
88. Collection Rex Begonias grown in pots or boxes.
89. Collection of Ferns.
90. Decorative House Plant.
91. Collection of Coleus.
92. Specimen Rex Begonia, San Diego Seedling, grown in pots or boxes.
93. Specimen Maidenhair Fern.
94. Specimen Fern other than Maidenhair.
95. Fern Hanging Basket.
96. Hanging Begonia Basket.

(Continued on Page 7)

Gleanings from the Magazines

By Alice M. Clark

Pinch hitting for our absentee gleaner is a difficult assignment, for few have her delightful, whimsical humor with which to spice the lines, but Ida Bryant has earned our best wishes for a happy vacation with the fine columns she always does for this department. I hope she catches an extra big fish as a special reward for her reminiscences in the last number, about Miss Sessions classes.

It brought back happy memories to me and, I am sure, to others also. It seems as though those of us who were fortunate enough to know her should hasten to share our recollections, while they are still fresh in our mind, with the rest of the garden world. I shall never forget how, at what turned out to be her last meeting with a local garden club, Miss Sessions produced a little box, and, unwrapping it carefully, like a jeweler displaying precious pearls, brought forth the fascinating little parachute seeds of the silver tree, Leucadendron argenteum. And she admonished us to be sure to return them. If you too are reminded of a story, jot it down and send it to our editor, who, I know, would be most happy to start a K.O.S. column.

CACTUS and SUCCULENT JOURNAL for June opens with "Notes on Utahia Sileri" by George Lindsay of Lakeside, recounting the search for a rare cactus supposed to have been discovered in Utah, but, so far, only located in Arizona. There are lovely sketches, partly in color, done by a miniature painter, Nell Lugard, of a ceropegia in Africa, that makes us wish that some of our old garden favorites might be handled as beautifully. I like the trend toward having articles, complete, with illustrations, follow each other without advertisement interruption, as this magazine from Pasadena does and it is worth the resultant higher cost.

DESERT PLAN LIFE for May-June, is another journal from the same town, and it has some lively articles, opening with one from the pen of our same Lakeside friend, this time on "Galloping Cactus" of Lower California. Be sure of your birth certificate before you read this essay, as the plant is in bloom on the cliffs of Todos Santor at Ensenada from June to late August. If you should be motoring north instead of south, there is a paragraph on some rare introductions at the Huntington Gardens, that you should read before you go. A radio talk on "This Common Desert Plant," written by Ellen Rooksby, is an entertaining story of the cactus; full of information, so well presented as to arouse the interest of the layman. Give it to your high-school student.

HOLLAND'S, a general magazine from Dallas, Tex., always features a "what to do" page, where experts from the southwest, southeast, and upper south give advice. In the July number there are hints on iris and poinsettias, also good garden queries. The civic betterment sponsored by the Oklahoma Garden Clubs is most commendable.

BETTER HOMES and GARDENS stems from Iowa, a state rather closely related to us as so many of her citizens have settled here. Right now that magazine has a new connection with us in the person of its garden advisor and lecturer, Alfred Hottes, who is liv-

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Hattie Rumble-shucks

says another good word to use in a garden meaning is Reactionary, but it doesn't smell so sweet. This word fits him that's "agin anything that isn't was."

He can't see the new houses they call modern, them with nice mass and proportion. And if he does, he sets the same plants in just the same way he always did. The old shrubs are good enough for him . . . so good he won't even look at a new one, for the promise that might be there. And as for flowers, s'petunias look like him and smell like him . . . which isn't so bad either, if he gets some of the newer varieties.

ing in La Jolla and is a most welcome addition to this whole garden community, as is also his artist confrere, Lindsay Field, who makes such clear and graphic cuts for this same periodical. I have already filed away my copy of the July edition for its "step-by-stp" illustrated article on making a pool. Short of standing on the bank and watching it being built, I don't see how anything could be more vivid. And the nice part is that when it is done you have an artistic result that looks as though Nature, herself, had made it. There is an outstanding contribution on vines, showing their adaptation to types of architecture and wall surfaces; the proper exposure and culture; the height, flower, method of climbing and uses of thirty hardy and tropical vines, well illustrated. If you use gladiolus for an arrangement in the August show, see Fay Huttenlocker's constructive set-up, called "Every Man's Orchid," explaining the placing of the flowers as she progresses. It is "Easy to Lay a Terrace" when such exact instructions are given. Fletta Woodroffe says, "You Can Have Both Shade and Bloom" and demonstrates effectively. Certainly, we should have better homes and gardens after the fine things in this magazine.

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE of AMERICA for July, announces the merging of the old and the new, combining its experience of thirty-six with that of REAL GARDENING, an infant of three summers. The result is a feast for horticulturists, with plenty of bread and butter for dirt gardeners. Issued at Baltimore, one expects scholarly articles like "Floral Wonders of the Tundras"; vivid pages from the notebook of Ira N. Gabrielson on arctic plants of Alaska and a masterly description of the natural habitat of many of our domestic species.

If you have been enjoying the lilies now coming into bloom, be sure to read "What Lilies Shall We Plant?" by specialist, Alan MacNeil, who lists them in relation to their susceptibility to the lily mosaic. It is a hopeful and helpful

(Continued on Page 9)

Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

RED SPIDER

QUESTION—Red spiders seem to be quite abundant on my avocados. Should I spray or dust and with what? Would rather dust if it is possible to get rid of the spiders by so doing.—P.S.

ANSWER—Either spraying or dusting will be effective, using sulphur in either case. Wettable sulphur, 5 or 6 pounds to the 100 gallons of water (8 or 9 ounces to 10 gallons) is apparently the most satisfactory spray and a finely divided sulphur is the best for dusting. There are a number of good dusting sulphurs but make sure the one you use is very fine. You will use from one quarter to a pound of sulphur per tree, depending upon its size. Wettable sulphur—for spraying—is sold under that name and simply means it is a sulphur combined with some inert material that allows it to mix readily with water. The control of red spider on avocados is so simple that there is no excuse for permitting trees to be injured by it. In this respect it differs decidely from the red spiders attacking citrus, these being rather difficult to handle. Do not apply sulphur to avocados when daytime temperatures are high, say from 90 or 95 degrees up, else burning may result.

PLANTS FROM MEXICO

QUESTION—There are a number of native shrubs I want to bring in from lower California, about 100 miles south of Tia Juana. Do I have to get permission from Mexico to bring them across the line? From where should it be obtained?—B.L.R.

ANSWER—The writer has no information concerning possible Mexican regulations in the exporting of plant material from that country. The Mexican Consul's office in San Diego can give you that information. There are, however, certain very definite regulations in effect on this side of the line which must be conformed to before plants or plant materials can be brought over. First of all a permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Application for this permit must state the kind and number of plants it is desired to import, the locality from which they are to be secured, the purpose of the importation, the port of entry through which they are to come and the destination of the plants. If your application is approved you will be so notified and the plant inspector at the port of entry will be sent a copy of the permit, as he must give the plants careful inspection before releasing them to you. The permit itself does not guarantee that the inspector will pass the plants, as they would be rejected if found infested or infected with certain insect pests and/or diseases.

BUGS EVERYWHERE

QUESTION—Oak wood and chaparral wood I have brought from the mountains for the fire place seems to have borers in it, black beetles nearly three quarters of an inch in length. This wood is stored in my basement. Is there any way I can treat this wood to kill the borers, or is there any danger of their going into the oak floors and hardwood trim above?—H.L.

ANSWER—There is no very practical way of killing borers in wood. Stored hardwood can be heat-treated but this is impractical for firewood. No material, even cyanide gas, can be guaranteed to penetrate into the borings far enough to kill the occupants. There is, however, very little danger of borers leaving firewood and entering oak floors. If the wood was lying directly on the floors there might be some degree of danger, but hardly otherwise. At the same time after the firewood is removed it would be a good plan to thoroughly clean out the store room, either by fumigation with cyanide gas or spraying with crude oil or kerosene, etc. A

liberal dusting of sodium fluoride would also be quite effective.

This reply is based on the assumption that the insects affecting the firewood are actually beetles and not termites. There are, as a matter of fact, quite a number of beetles infesting dead timber in California, but few, if any, have been known to leave their native hosts and enter house timbers.

WORK ADOBE

QUESTION—I am confronted with the problem of breaking up and making workable a bit of stubborn clay soil. I believe you call it adobe in this country. Can you suggest a method that is not beyond the means and abilities of a home gardener?—J. W. B.

ANSWER—Adobe soils, of several types and grades, are usually rich and durable and although not suitable for all plants, are nevertheless among the most fruitful. They are, however, as you have undoubtedly discovered, hard to work and present somewhat of a difficult problem. Care in irrigation and cultivation is essential. After irrigation (avoiding the use of excessive amounts of water) there is a period of three or four days when such soils can be cultivated without leaving large lumps or clods. Heavy soils should never be worked when wet, or else they will become badly puddled. The addition of large quantities of organic matter such as strawy manures, old alfalfa hay or bean straw, weeds, etc., well spaded in will be of very much benefit. Sulphate of lime — gypsum—will also aid in breaking up heavy soils and make them friable and more easily worked. For a plot 50 x 100 feet you might apply 100 or 150 pounds, more or less, depending upon how stubborn your soil is.

If these rather simple directions are followed your soil will certainly become more easily worked. To summarize, use care in irrigation, cultivate when sufficiently dried out so that there will be no lumps or puddling; dig in as much organic matter as you have access to, and make one application of gypsum, this to precede the organic matter.

Schedule of Classes

(Continued from Page 5)

97. Hanging Basket, not otherwise classified.

* **SWEEPSTAKES FOR CLASSES 83 to 97 Inclusive.**

SECTION H—OPEN TO ALL
Miscellaneous

98. Flowering Vine (flowers and foliage).
99. Collection of Cut Sprays, Flowering Trees or Shrubs.
100 Displayed Collection of Gourds.
101. Potted Plant in Flower for Patio or Garden.
102. Exhibit of Summer Flowering Lilies.
103. Display of Gladiolas, 12 Stalks.
104. Display of Fuchsias.
105. Display of Geraniums.
106. Display of Gerberas, Not Less Than 25.
107. Single Specimen Cactus.
108. Collection of Six Cacti.
109. Collection of Twelve Cacti.
110. Single Specimen Succulent.
111. Collection of Six Succulents.
112. Collection of Twelve Succulents.

* **SWEEPSTAKES FOR CLASSES 98 to 112 Inclusive.**
First and Second Prizes.

SECTION I—PROFESSIONAL

*113. Collection of Decorative Plants and Flowers Arranged for Effect in 100 Square Feet.
114. Collection of Petunias.
115. Collection of Zinnias.
116. Collection of Asters.
117. Arranged Basket of Flowers.
118. Banquet Table.
119. Exhibit of Water Lilies.
*120. Best Display of Cut Flowers.

* **OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW. San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMEN

Dahlias—Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Carse, Bayview 3892.

Zinnias—Mrs. J. Terrell Scott, Jackson 3946; Miss Katherine V. Lewis, Glencove 5-3070.

Arrangements in Baskets, Bowls and Dishes—Pieter Smoor, Main 4775; Miss Schwieder, Jackson 3520; Mrs. John Nuttall, Jackson 2644.

Annuals, Perennials, Cacti and Succulents—Mrs. Grace Trevey, Woodcrest 2775.

Dining Tables—Mrs. Frank E. Marcy, Jackson 9097.

Lath House Subjects—Mrs. John G. Clark, Bayview 5090.

Still Life — Mrs. Ivan Messenger, Franklin 5357; Mrs. Rhea Hammitt.

Secretary—Mrs. M. E. Ward, Woodcrest 5022.

Treasurer—Mr. Arthur Shoven.

General Chairman — Mrs. M. A. Greer, W. 2267.

Clerking—Mrs. Elsie Case.

TERMITES RACE PLANT

Residents in a part of Queensland are watching an unique race between termites and a prickly pear plant, it is reported in Sydney. The spiky nuisance established itself close to a white ant nest on a dead stump. The ants flung out the earth The plant grew fastest in the sunshine; the ants did best at night. Each sundown a shoot of pear topped the nest; every night the ants buried it in mud. The nest promises to be the tallest in Queensland.

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K. O. SESSIONS MOTHER OF GARDENS

(Continued from Page 3)

forget her speech on Kate Sessions Day in 1935. The curtain had lifted on a life-size portrait of herself, the eulogists had given tongue and she rose to reply and acknowledge her honors. "I didn't do it," said she, "it was the plants that did it."

And in 1939, when she was growing deaf and rather tired, she replied to the presentation of the Frank Meyer Medal with "My bad ears would not allow me to hear anything that was said. But I hope they were talking about the flowers and not about me."

(NOTE — Reprinted by permission Los Angeles Times Home Magazine.)

July Meeting

At the July meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, it being the first meeting of the fiscal year, the report of the election of officers for the coming year was given by Mr. Arthur Shoven. All officers and directors, with exception of Mr. Federick G. Jackson, who is now in the U. S. service, and whose resignation as treasurer was accepted with regrets, continue as during the past year—the names published on Page 1 of California Garden magazine. Mr. Arthur Shoven is the new teasurer elected.

An expression of condolence was extended to the family members on the passing of Mrs. Paul Tuttle, who for years was an active and zealous member of Floral Association before her change of residence from San Diego.

Mrs. Greer announced the dates for the coming Fall Flower Show—August 16th and 17th. "We want it better than ever—why shouldn't we" she said.

One of the most outstanding talks of the year was given by Mrs. Mary M. Fewkes of Montalvo Gardens, who has special interest in the culture of Ferns and Begonias —also quite in line, she mentioned Fuchsias, Coleus and some tropical plants.

There are three types of fibrous begonias, she said—tall, intermediate and low—procumbent. As to location — a wooded condition, a patio, sheltered spots on the north side, and where there is no wind are important.

For the soil, she advised oak mold as it contains constituents of organic matter—acid—suited to the growth of plants. "Necessity, the mother of invention," she quoted, caused her by necessity, to use bean straw with profitable results.

How to plant—in non-drainage location, dig 15 inches deep, and where drainage is good, plant in holes or dig out soil, and use plenty of leaf mold for best results.

Care.—Do not cultivate. Wash leaves as well as the ground. It is wise to keep them from becoming dust clogged as they must breathe, and it gives them beautiful texture. Water when necessary, but swampy conditions are taboo. With specimens of potted plants Mrs. Fewkes showed how to prune them—some pruning which appeared to be very ruthless and severe — and to slip them she cut away all side branches, leaving only the top end. When fertilizing, give the plants something which lasts over several weeks—impregnate with nitrogen or its compounds in the soil.

She mentioned as pests, and control of them—mealy bugs (nicona); red spiders and thrips (extrax); nematodes (crude napthalene); and for slugs, sow bugs and snails (her own mixture, the formula which may be gotten from her). The same treatment is followed for Rex Begonias as for Fibrous Begonias.

For Tuberous Begonias, she gave the formula for soil—3 parts of leaf mold, 1 part good rich top loam (no adobe), 1 lb. can blood and bone, or vigoro, using a receptacle for measuring about the size of a coffee can. She found through experimental planting that they do well in sunny locations. Avoid too much water, and when starting to bloom, give some liquid food. Allow the stems to entirely dry back when finished blooming, and if in pots, lay on sides.

FERNS

Ferns, any of the order (Filicales), like seed plants, are differentiated into root, stem and leaves (fronds), but do not bear seeds. There are dustlike asexual spores of ferns, formerly taken for seeds. The spore is sterile until planted. Cells are created with moisture under ground where male and female become separate. From this a prothalium is created, and from which ferns grow. They have a rhizome or root system having underground rootlike stems.

Names of some Ferns mentioned —Sword, Plumosum, Boston, Mixed Fern, Whitmanii, Norwood, Smithii and Croigii. The Adiantum or Maidenhair family means dry, and will shed water when entirely immersed. She said the Wild Ferns can be kept alive with proper care.

Maidenhair fronds having the ends of stems burned are of great worth as corsages.

Never allowing a dull moment to

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intervene, Mrs. Fewkes closed her stimulating talk. Something so vital about her gave everyone the urge to plant at once and grow Ferns and Begonias. And lastly—the generous donation to the Club by Mrs. Fewkes of numerous specimens and fine potted plants from the Montalvo Gardens.

G. M. G.

SHE TALKS TO THEM

It is said that tuberous begonias are not doing so well this summer . . . that all along the coast, growers are having difficulty bringing them along with their usual gorgeous and infinite-form perfection.

This checks with my own limited observation; yet recently in a little hothouse out Point Loma way, I saw them in their usual pulchritude. Without question Mrs. Roscoe Hazard has a way with flowers. They perform for her gladly and fully and without equivocation . . . which brings up the question again of a certain subjective contact the amateur lover may have as against the objective attitude of the commercial organization that surely has more of the proper answers than the other and usually better equipment.

The story goes that my great-grandmother pushed her last cane into soft earth too far for her failing strength to recover and that was her last gardening. A splendid beech stands there now which is pointed out as evidence to this day in the locality, of the way of a woman with wood, whether a cutting of beech or the cranium of a spouse.

What do YOU think?
Or have you.

R. S. H.

GROWN IN CALIFORNIA

An 84-year-old cypress, which state division of forestry experts said was the largest of the Montery species on record, has been cut down. Towering 128 feet, the tree was attacted successively by beetles and termites. It had been dead a year.

GOLDFINCHES

(Continued from Page 3)

at times in my garden, but the occasions are infrequent as if the area were on the periphery of the range of the pair visiting me. Foothills and mountains are the type of terrain favored by Lawrence's Goldfinches, and even in winter, flocks of them may be found in such areas. Their flight, like that of all of our Goldfinches, is a series of undulations.

Natural History Museum.

GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 6)

article that will save you time, money and possible disappointment. There is a new department with ideas for the shady spot we all struggle with; garden advice from seven different sections of the country; a varitable encyclopedia of ivies and a delightful discussion of "Keeping Down the Upkeep" (which I hope my husband won't see) are just a few plums from this fruity magazine.

A footnote to the Michigan column of advice suggests, while enjoying the shade trees, to read "A Bock of Trees," by Alfred Hottes. A letter from Wheaton, Illinois, enthuses over the acquisition of an Aloe vera, a biblical herb, from "our" Mrs. Bakkers' Knickerbocker Nursery. I have looked up a dozen names in Roland Hoyt's "Subtropical" storehouse since starting this review and I often sit in the shade of the A. D. Robinson lath house—four good reasons for enjoying life in San Diego in spite of the "blitzboom." Be seeing all you workers at the flower show!

BIRDS IN FLORIDA

Ornithologists report that 423 species and sub-species of birds have been recorded in Florida. Three are now extinct, 134 are permanent residents, 31 summer residents, and 136 spend the winter here. Sixty-nine different kinds of birds migrate through Florida on their way to winter homes farther south and 50 are recorded as accidental or casual visitors.—Florida Game and Fish.

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King or Feather Palm

SEAFORTHIA ELEGANS

is an old-fashioned palm surviving here and there throughout the older residential districts of Southern California. A slim, slender line of utmost cleanliness and distinctive grace suggest its use in clumps for linear, high-reaching effects. The early planters were economical . . . they used single specimens. It may well be they sensed the unwieldly botanical confusion the unfortunate thing was to fall into . . . **Archontophoenix,** Loroma, Seaforthia, Ptychosperma and possibly other names for the same plant that haven't come to light yet. Take your choice . . . everybody does. The first is probably correct to cover this tree.